**Warrick County Commissioners**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025

**Contact:**
Warrick County Health Department
Phone: 812-897-6105

[www.warrickcounty.gov](http://www.warrickcounty.gov)

Click link **Daily Updates from EPA on Chemical Fire and to Report Ash on your Property**

Warrick County Commissioners Provide Update on Ash Testing and Cleanup Guidance

The Warrick County Commissioners, in coordination with the Warrick County Health Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are providing the following update regarding ash and debris cleanup in the community

**Public Statement**

* **Composition of Ash:** Laboratory analysis indicates the presence of byproducts from metal combustion, including salts of metals and magnesium oxides.
* **Properties of Ash and pH Levels:** Following the PBTT fire, the earliest measurements of ash pH in the field indicated a pH of concern, to potentially cause skin irritation on contact. Out of an abundance of caution, responding agencies initiated assessments of ash in the community at a nearby daycare and schools. Precautions were taken to wipe down surfaces with ash. As the assessments for ash developed and proceeded, more field measurements for pH showed ash in the community at lower pH than initially measured. This was confirmed by lab results from some bulk ash samples EPA collected. The pH measurements of ash in the community ranged from mildly acidic to moderately alkaline.
* **Cleanup of Surfaces and Property:** Residents may now begin cleaning ash from their property.
* **Recommended Methods for Property Cleanup:** Vinegar-based cleaning solutions and/or water are recommended, particularly for larger areas. Although the ash is alkaline, it is not as caustic as initially believed. As a general precaution—and especially for those with sensitive skin—residents should wear gloves while cleaning.
* **Resources and Assistance:** Additional information, including EPA Frequently Asked Questions, is available through the link posted on the Warrick County Government website [http://www.warrickcounty.govv/](http://www.warrickcounty.govv) [www.warrickcounty.gov](http://www.warrickcounty.gov) - click link Daily Update from EPA on Chemical Fire and to Report Ash on your Property. Residents may also call the Health Department directly at **812-897-6105** or Warrick County Commissioners at **812-897-6120** for guidance.
* **Support for Affected Residents:** Individuals living in the shelter-in-place area who encounter ash debris and need assistance obtaining cleaning supplies should contact the Health Department at 8128-97-6105.
* Individuals living in the shelter-in-place area requiring assistance in obtaining cleaning supplies should contact the Health Department at 812-897-615 or the Commissioner’s Office at 812-897-6120 and Warrick County EMA will aid.
* Cleaning supplies will NOT be available until Tuesday, September 16, 2025.

**Vann Road Park Update**

* The EPA completed outdoor hard surfaces cleaning within Vann Road Park on Saturday, September 13, 2025. Cleaning included vacuuming ash and wiping surfaces.
* A lawn vacuum was used to remove larger debris from ball fields and walking paths. However, small fine particles and some larger debris remain in gravel areas, as the equipment cannot clear all materials.
* Vann Park REMAINS CLOSED until further notice.
* The pond at Vann Road Park REMAINS CLOSED and will continue to be closed for the foreseeable future.

**The Warrick County Commissioners thank the community for their continued patience and cooperation as agencies work together to ensure public safety.**